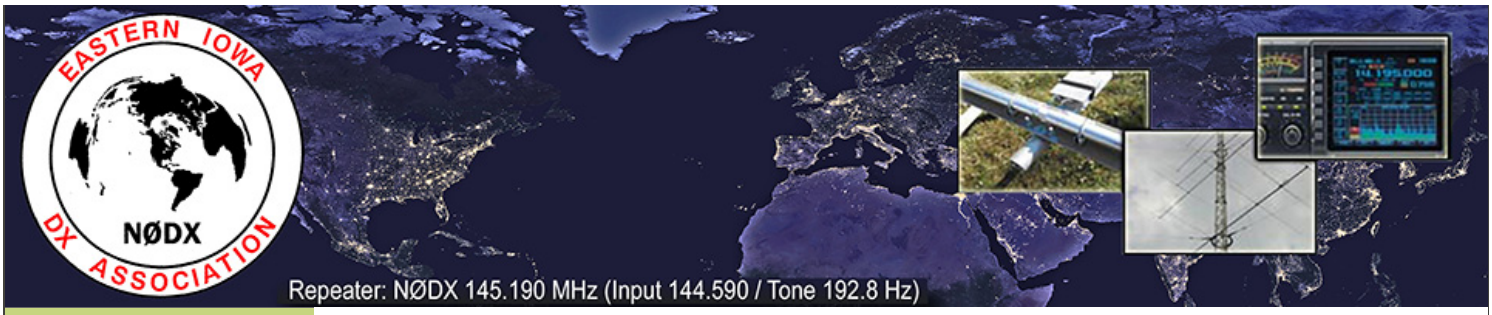

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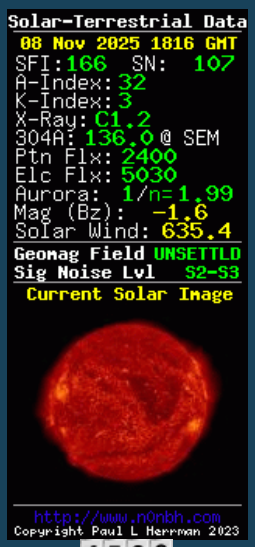

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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 299, November 7, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in red. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a **Propagation** section, updated daily; and a **Contest Calendar** of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:
- The ARRL DX Bulletin
  - This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See http://www.arrl.org/bulletins to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)
- 425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)
  - Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH
  - 425 DX News Home Page: https://www.425dxn.org/
  - 425 DX News Google Group: https://groups.google.com/g/425eng
- DX Newsletter (DXNL)
  - Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON
  - A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", http://www.darcdxhf.de
- Propagation data is from:
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center
  - Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission
- Contest data courtesy of the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

DX News

4J, AZERBAIJAN. Special event stations **4K8N** and **4J8N** are QRV until November 15th to commemorate Victory Day. QSL direct to 4K8N and 4J8N, respectively.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1114)

4X, ISRAEL. Special callsigns **4XØVK** (October 31st - November 1st), **4XØZL** (November 7th-8th) and **4XØUK** (November 10th-11th) are three radio field operations commemorating the British and ANZAC forces that fought during World War I in pre-state Israel. QSL all stations via 4X6ZM.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1114)

5H, TANZANIA. Maurizio, IK2GZU will be active again as **5H3MB** from Tanzania from October 16th to November 20th, while doing volunteer work at a local school. In his spare time, he will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 80-10 meters. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, LoTW, and eQSL, or via IK2GZU.
-[425DXN # 1795 September 27, 2025] (1010-1121)

5R, MADAGASCAR. Silvano, I2YSB and the Italian DXpedition Team (I1FQH, I1HJT, I2PJA, IK2CKR, IK2HKT, IK2RZP and IV3ZXQ) will be active as **5R8TT** (CW, SSB and RTTY) and 5R8XX (FT8) from Nosy Be (AF-057), Madagascar from October 29th to November 12th. They will run four stations on 160-6 meters. See https://www.i2ysb.com/idt/ for more information, including band plan, OQRS for direct cards and the new DXpedition Awards. QSLs direct to I2YSB.
-[425DXN # 1789 August 16, 2025] (1024-1114)

5V, TOGO. Vasily, RA1ZZ and Vlad, R9LR will be active as **5V7RU** from Togo on November 5th-17th. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on the HF bands, with a focus on 16Ø and 80 meters, and via QO-100. A "trip to Benin and short activity on SAT QO-100 as **TYØRU**" is planned for November 19th. See https://dxpedition.wixsite.com/5v7ru for more information. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1121)

7P, LESOTHO. Wolfgang, HB9CCS will be active in his spare time as **7P8EA** from Thaba-Tseka, Lesotho on November 3rd-27th. He plans to be QRV daily between 1600 and 1900 UTC on or around 21223 kHz (SSB) or 21050 kHz (CW). He might also be active on 17, 12 or 10 meters. QSL via HB9CCS.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1031-1128)

7Q, MALAWI. Chris, ZS6RI has been active as **7Q5C** from near Karonga in northern Malawi since October 28th. For the next year or two, he will be working there on a six-week on/off rotation, with planned activity on 40-10 meters "99% CW" during his spare time. Paper QSLs will not be issued, however QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, QRZ Logbook and ClubLog.
-[425DXN # 1800 November 1, 2025] (1031-1121)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Guyana from October 29th to December 7th. He operates CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-6 meters, typically between 2300 UTC and 0200 UTC, and longer over the weekends. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct to PY1SAD.
-[425DXN # 1800 November 1, 2025] (1031-1212)

9G, GHANA. DL1CW is going to operate as **9G5ZZ** during November, including the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 29th-30th). QSL via DL1CW.
-[DXNL # 2482 October 29, 2025] (1031-1205)

9L, SIERRA LEONE. Members of the Mediteraneo DX Club will be QRV as **9L8MD** from October 29th to November 10th, with a side trip to Banana Island, IOTA AF-037, and active as **9L9L** from November 2nd to 5th. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters. QSL via IK2VUC, full QSL information at 9L8MD.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 43 October 23, 2025] (1024-1114)

9U, BURUNDI. Several members of the Russian DX Team will be active as **9U1RU** from Burundi from October 29th to November 19th, with "full-scale on-air operation" from October 31st to November 17th. Plans are to operate CW, SSB and FT8 (MSHV) with at least seven high-power stations on 160-6 meters. Bookmark https://www.rudxt.org/9u1ru for more information and updates. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS.
-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (1024-1121)

C2, NAURU. Phill, **C21TS** now expects to remain on Nauru (OC-031) until November 30th. After a 2-month leave, "I'll probably be back for a few months from February 2026 with minimal gear", he says. He will be QRT for good no later than June 2026. QSL via LoTW, or via MØOXO's OQRS.
-[425DXN # 1795 September 27, 2025] (0926-1130)

CE, CHILE. Special callsign **3G5SM** is now expected to be QRV from Isla Santa Maria (SA-070) on November 10th-14th. The operation will also serve as a trial run of the equipment - including a remote station - to be used during XQ7IR's announced DXpedition to San Ambrosio in January 2026. Please

note that only contacts made with the on-site 3G5SM operator(s) will be accepted for IOTA credit. Those contacts will include SSB QSOs (November 10th-14th) and FT8 QSOs (November 10th-12th). Any CW and FT8 contacts made between 0001 UTC on 13 November and 2359 UTC on 14 November will be carried out remotely, and will not count towards IOTA credit. Bookmark https://3g5sm.webnode.cl for more information and updates. QSL via MØURX's OQRS.
-[425DXN # 1798 October 18, 2025] (1107-1114)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. David, F4FKT will be active again from Antarctica from November until early February 2026. Main activity will be during his spare time as **FT4YM/p** from Concordia Station (AN-016), operating SSB and digital modes. In addition, he might be QRV as **FT4YM** from Dumont d'Urville on Petrels Island (AN-017). Updates will be posted to https://ft4ym.fr/actus. QSL via F5PFP.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1212)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Alex, UG1A, is preparing for his next trip to Antarctica. He plans to reach the Progress base on October 20th and remains there until December 5th. Next stop will be Vostok until December 20th; maybe with HF operating during the transit. While on Vostok there may also be an opportunity to visit Ridge B, a yet to be explored area up to 3800m asl. This season Alex signs **RI1ANI** from Antarctica.
-[DXNL # 2481 October 22, 2025] (1024-1219)

CN, MOROCCO. Yannick, F6FYD will be QRV as **CN2YD** from November 11th to March 31, 2026. Activity will on 20 to 10 meters using primarily SSB. This includes a possible trip to Mogador Island (AF-065). QSL direct to F6FYD.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1219)

CN, MOROCCO. Eddy, OE3SEU will be active as **CN2SE/p** while touring Morocco in his motorhome from November 1st to December 7th. Activity will be on the QO-100 satellite. Follow his travels - and give a look at dozens of stunning pictures - on https://we-travel.at/. QSL via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1212)

CP, BOLIVIA. Members of the Yaguarete DX Group (LU1FM, LU1HF, LU3FR, LU5HPM, LU6FOV, LU6HGH and LU9FHF) will be active as **CP7DX** from Tarija, Bolivia from October 31st to November 10th. They will operate SSB and FT8 on 160-6 meters, as well as via EME. See https://jvp-antenas.com.ar/cp7dx/ for more information. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, or direct to LU1FM.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1031-1114)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of November 6, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. KP5	Desecheo Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. VKØH	Heard Island
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. FT/T	Tromelin Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. EZ	Turkmenistan

For the complete list, see https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php
-[KØCF November 7, 2025 (1107-1128)

EA, SPAIN. Members of the Radio Club del Tarragones (EA3RCY) will be active as **AO25TWHS** on November 1st-30th. The special callsign celebrates the 25th anniversary since the Archaeological Ensemble of Tarraco (modernday Tarragona) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. A certificate will be available on https://ao25twhs.ea3rcy.org. QSL via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1128)

FS, SAINT MARTIN. Following their Montserrat operation, Irina, DL8DYL and Ralf, DL9DRA are going to move on to St. Martin from November 2nd to 9th, operating as **FS/DL8DYL** and **FS/DL9DRA**.
-[DXNL # 2481 October 22, 2025] (1031-1114)

G, ENGLAND. Special callsign **GB5ØAUK** celebrates the 50th anniversary of AMSAT-UK (https://amsat-uk.org) on November 1st-28th. QSOs will be uploaded to at least eQSL and the QO-100 DX Club.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1128)

G, ENGLAND. Special event station **GB13ØWRD** will be active across various bands and modes throughout November, especially around World Radiography Day. Celebrated annually on November 8th, WRD marks the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895. QSL direct to MØKZT.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1128)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, is QRV as **H44MS** from Malaita Island (OC-047) until November 25th. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to DL2GAC.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 41 October 9, 2025] (1010-1128)

HB9, SWITZERLAND. Celebrating the 70th anniversary of their organization, members of the International Police Association's Swiss branch (HB9IPA) will be active as **HB7ØIPA** from November 1st to December 31st. Activity will be on various HF bands and the QO-100 satellite. QSL via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1031-1128)

HK, COLOMBIA. Renato, PY8WW reports that his application for the special callsign **5J4W** has been "*officially denied*" by the Colombian authorities. Therefore, his operation from Isla Playa Blanca (SA-084) "has been authorized only under the portable callsign **HK4/PY8WW**, in accordance with Colombian regulations", he says. The activity will take place on November 12th-17th, on 80-10 meters SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1121)

I, ITALY. Celebrating 130 years of Radio, **IYØGA** (Sardinia), **IYØMMR**, **IYØORP**, **IY1MR**, **IY1SM**, **IY1TO**, **IY4FGM**, **IY5PIS**, and **IY7M** will be active on November 8th. These stations are affiliated to the "Coordinamento Stazioni Marconiane Italiane", which gathers amateur radio stations operating from historic Marconi sites located in Italy.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1114)

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Once again Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as **JD1BMH** from Chichijima (AS-031), Ogasawara on November 1st-9th. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 40-10 meters. Log search on https://ss381094.stars.ne.jp/jd1bmh/. QSL via JD1BMH (bureau), or direct to JG7PSJ.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1114)

LU, ARGENTINA. Radio Club QRM Belgrano (**LU4AAO** and **LS2E**) will be active on the HF bands SSB and FT8 on November 8th-16th to celebrate Argentine Tradition Day. See http://lu4aao.org/cert_dia_tradicion_2025.htm for more information.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1107-1121)

LZ, BULGARIA. Watch for **LZ/HA8LLH** and **LZ/YO5OED** to be active from Sveta Anastasiya Island (EU-181) on November 6th-10th. They will operate CW and SSB on 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters. QSL LZ/HA8LLH via HA8LLH and LZ/YO5OED via YO5OED.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1114)

ON, BELGIUM. Special callsign **OT5IDPD** will be active from November 4th to December 3rd for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, whose annual observance (December 3rd) was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992. All operators will be hams with a disability. The logs will be uploaded to LoTW, ClubLog and eQSL; all QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.
-[425DXN # 1795 September 27, 2025] (1031-1205)

ON, BELGIUM. The ONZ Oostkust Radioclub (ON6HC) will be active on all bands and modes as **OR81C** from October 15th to November 14th to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the liberation of the region of Knokke-Heist by Canadian troops in 1944. A certificate will be available: https://www.onz.be/or81c-award-request/. QSL via eQSL.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1010-1114)

PACIFIC TOUR. Rudi, DK7PE's third Pacific DXpedition (October 27th - November 19th) will include activity from Guam **(KG6/AHØG**), Palau (**T8??**), Micronesia (**V6CW**), the Marshall Islands (**V73RK**), and possibly Western Kiribati (**T3ØRK**). He will operate CW only with 100 watts and wire antennas. Details will be posted to https://www.rooody.de/. QSLs via DK7PE.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1024-1121)

PY, BRAZIL. Special callsign **PV2RB** by the Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao (LABRE) celebrates Brazilian Radioamateur Day on November 1st-9th. A certificate will be available, see PV2RB for information. The Dia do Radioamador Brasileiro marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the first Brazilian Amateur Radio regulations (November 5, 1924). QSL via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1114)

PY, BRAZIL. Team **PR5M** will be active from Ilha do Mel (SA-047) on November 6th-9th. They will operate CW and SSB on 10, 15 and 20 meters (maybe also on 30m). QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog. QSL via PP5BZ.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1031-1114)

S2, BANGLADESH. Team **S21SDX** will be active from deep inside the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on November 13th-15th. Organized by the Amateur Radio Club Khulna, the event will be led and managed by young operators, including S21ACP, S21CMD, S21AKL, and S21SRK. They will operate SSB and FT8 on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. More information is expected to be published on https://s21sdx.org/ in due course. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via I8KHC.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1107-1121)

SP, POLAND. Special callsign **HF4SES** will be in use from October 31st to December 31st to mark the launch of RadioAwards.club, a "platform designed for organizing and managing ham radio award events worldwide". See https://radioawards.club/ses/premier-event for more information and the certificate.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1226)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Darek, TJ1GD, is QRV as **TL8GD** for the foreseeable future. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS (preferred), LoTW, or via SP3EOL.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 44 October 30, 2025] (1031-1121)

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN will be active again as **TR8CR** from Gabon starting on October 25th for two months. He will operate CW only. Log search on http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php. QSL via F6AJA.
-[425DXN # 1799 October 25, 2025] (1024-1219)

TY, BENIN. Red, DL1BUG will be QRV as **TY5FR** from Cotonou from November 15th to December 11th. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX CW contest (November 29th-30th). QSL to DL1BUG.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1212)

V7, MARSHALL IS. Randy, KX4QD, is back on Kwajalein (OC-028) and gets on the air as **V73AX** during his spare time from the club station on the island. That station now has a newly installed LogPer antenna and amplifier. QSL via qrz.com.
-[DXNL # 2482 October 29, 2025] (1031-1121)

V8, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM. Commemorating the centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union, special event station **V84SRU** will be active on all bands and modes from October 24th to November 26th. QSL direct to P.O. Box 211, MPC Old Airport, Bandar Seri Begawan BB3577, Brunei Darussalam.
-[425DXN # 1798 October 18, 2025] (1024-1128)

XU, CAMBODIA. Thomas, DL7BO is QRV as **XU7O** until November 9th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to DL7BO.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1114)

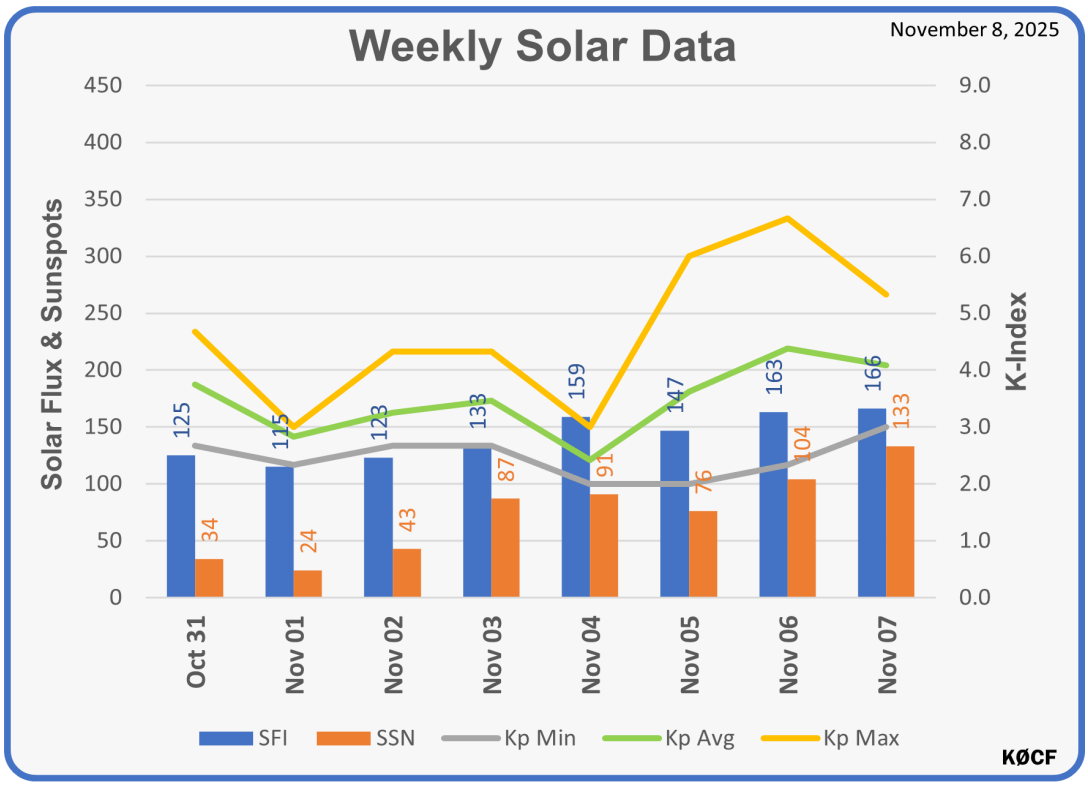
YU, SERBIA. Special call sign **YU65AEC** is QRV to commemorate 65 years of continuous operation and significant contributions to the amateur radio community in Odzaci. QSL via operators' instructions.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1128)

Z6, REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO. Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as **Z66XX**. He and other operators will be QRV as **Z66BCC** in the WAE DX RTTY contest (November 8th-9th). QSL both calls via DL2JRM.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 45 November 6, 2025] (1107-1114)

ZL7, CHATHAM IS. Stan, LZ1GC will be active as **ZL7/LZ1GC** from the Chatham Islands (OC-038) on November 3rd-20th. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8/FT4 on 160-10 meters with two working stations, on different bands and modes (one on digital modes and another one on CW/SSB). See http://www.c21gc.com for more information and updates. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS (preferred) or via LZ1GC.
-[425DXN # 1797 October 11, 2025] (1031-1121)

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Neil, MØNJH will be operating portable from SOTA summits in various South African regions (provinces) during November: **ZS6/MØNJH** from Gauteng and North West, **ZS5/MØNJH** from KwaZulu-Natal, and **ZS1/MØNJH** from Western Cape. He will document his activations on https://radio-hut.blogspot.com/. QSL via LoTW, eQSL and QRZ Logbook.
-[425DXN # 1801 November 8, 2025] (1107-1128)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** *You may click here or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.*

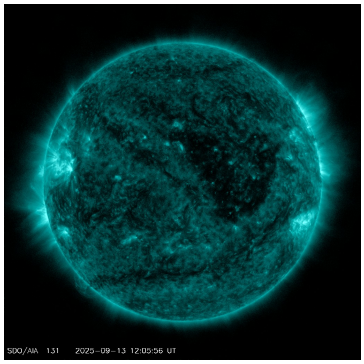
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click here or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, October 31st through yesterday, November 7th.

The average solar flux was 144, up 21 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 166 on Friday, November 7th, following a low of 115 on November 1st.

The average sunspot count was 80, up 1 from last week, peaking at 133 on Friday, November 7th after a weekly low of 24 on November 1st.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.7 with a maximum of 6.7 on Thursday, November 6th, indicating a moderate geomagnetic storm. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 5.3 with a minor geomagnetic storm.

Solar flare activity since November 1st has been high with 11 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 1.8 event on Tuesday, November 4th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, November 1st through 1524 UTC, November 8th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Nov 07	0716	M 1.7
2	Nov 06	0431	M 1.1
3	Nov 05	2207	M 8.6
4	Nov 05	1119	M 7.4
5	Nov 04	2201	X 1.1
6	Nov 04	1734	X 1.8
7	Nov 04	0148	M 3.5
8	Nov 03	1247	M 3.2
9	Nov 03	1011	M 5.0
10	Nov 03	0925	M 1.6
11	Nov 02	0026	M 1.1

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: GOES-X-Ray-Flux)

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Nov 8	80%	35%	170
Nov 9	80%	35%	170
Nov 10	80%	35%	170

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on November 3, 2025).

Date	Flux	Kp
Nov 8	135	5
Nov 9	135	4
Nov 10	132	4
Nov 11	140	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Nov 12	140	2
Nov 13	145	2
Nov 14	145	2
Nov 15	145	5

Date	Flux	Kp
Nov 16	145	4
Nov 17	135	3
Nov 18	130	2
Nov 19	130	2

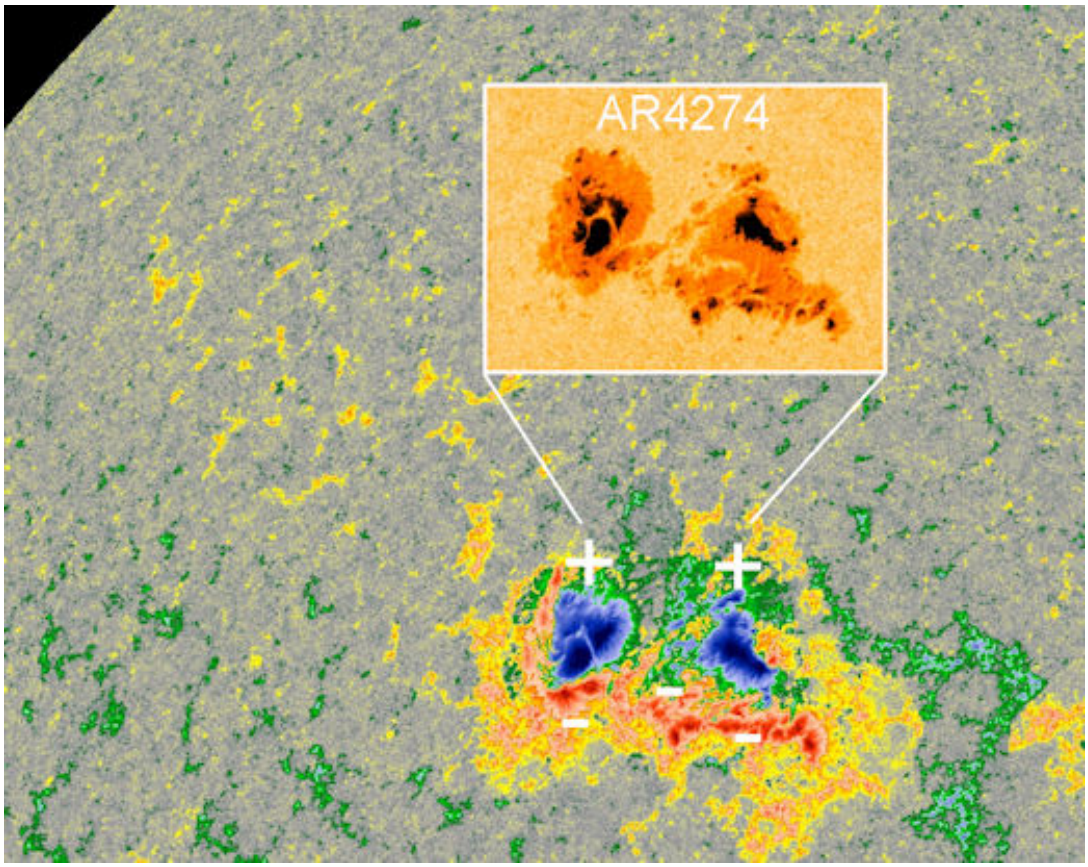
The CME Has Arrived

As predicted, a CME struck Earth's magnetic field on Nov. 7th (0517 UTC). The impact sets the stage for minor (G1) to strong (G3) geomagnetic storms in the hours ahead, with a chance of mid-latitude auroras. Another CME is expected to deliver a glancing blow on Nov. 8th, potentially extending the light show.

(*Copyright © SpaceWeather.com November 7, 2025. Republished by permission.*)

What's Wrong With This Sunspot?

Answer: It has a twisted magnetic field. Active sunspot 4274 is emitting almost-daily CMEs and strong solar flares. The reason why may be found in this magnetic map from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory:



Note the distribution of pluses (+) and minuses (-). These are the sunspot's magnetic poles, and they are arranged in an unusual way.

According to Hale's Law, the sunspot's magnetic poles should be oriented -/+, that is, negative (-) on the left and positive (+) on the right. Instead, they are twisted 90 degrees; positive (+) is on top and negative (-) is on the bottom. Sunspot 4274 is breaking the law.

The twisted magnetic roots of this sunspot are torqued and full of tension. Strong flares are how it tries to relax. NOAA forecasters say there is an 80% chance of M-class solar flares and a 35% chance of powerful X-flares on Nov. 7th.

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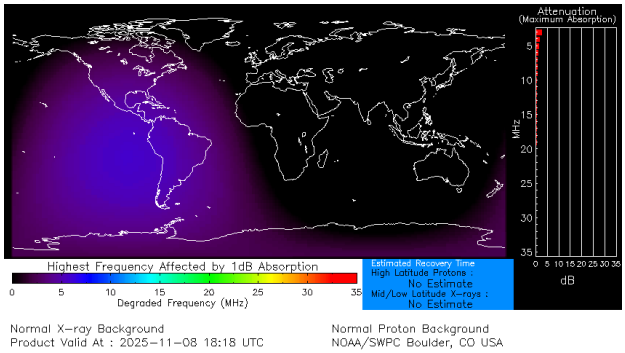
Global D Region Absorption

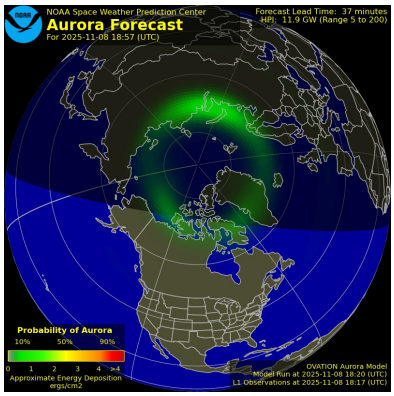
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have

a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.
Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

https://prop.kc2g.com/ (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
NOAA https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/
https://www.spaceweather.com/
https://www.solarham.com/
https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 8	0000Z	Nov 9	2359Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	Nov 8	0001Z	Nov 9	2359Z	Rules
JIDX Phone Contest	Nov 8	0700Z	Nov 9	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 8	1200Z	Nov 9	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Nov 15	2100Z	Nov 17	0300Z	Rules
LZ DX Contest	Nov 22	1200Z	Nov 23	1200Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Nov 23	0000Z	Nov 23	0400Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 29	0000Z	Nov 30	2400Z	Rules
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 5	2200Z	Dec 7	1600Z	Rules
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 13	0000Z	Dec 14	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	Dec 21	1800Z	Dec 21	2359Z	Rules
RAC Winter Contest	Dec 27	0000Z	Dec 27	2359Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Dec 27	1500Z	Dec 28	1500Z	Rules
RAEM Contest	Dec 28	0000Z	Dec 28	1159Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jan 3	1800Z	Jan 3	2359Z	Rules
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Jan 3	1800Z	Jan 4	2400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Jan 10	1800Z	Jan 11	0600Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Jan 17	1800Z	Jan 18	0600Z	Rules
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 17	1900Z	Jan 19	0359Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan 23	2200Z	Jan 25	2159Z	Rules
REF Contest, CW	Jan 24	0600Z	Jan 25	1800Z	Rules
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 7	0000Z	Feb 8	2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 7	0001Z	Feb 8	2359Z	Rules
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 7	1200Z	Feb 8	2359Z	Rules

Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 7	1400Z	Feb 7	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 7	1600Z	Feb 8	2400Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 8	0000Z	Feb 8	0359Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the WA7BNM Contest Calendar)

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